

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

TRUSTEES OF THE N.E.C.A. -	)	FILED: MARCH 18, 2009
IBEW LOCAL 176 HEALTH, WELFARE,	)	09CV1700
PENSION, VACATION, AND TRAINING	)	JUDGE NORGLE
TRUST FUNDS,	)	MAGISTRATE JUDGE BROWN
	)	BR
Plaintiffs,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	No.
	)	
MCDANIEL FIRE SYSTEMS, INC., an Illinois	)	
Corporation, and BRETT D. BEAN, Individually,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs, by their attorneys, ARNOLD AND KADJAN and John F. Etzkorn, complain against Defendant MCDANIEL FIRE SYSTEMS, INC. ("MCDANIEL"), and BRETT D. BEAN, INDIVIDUALLY, ("BEAN") as follows:

1. (a) Jurisdiction of this cause is based upon Section 301 of the National Labor Relations Act as amended, 29 U.S.C. §185(a), as hereinafter more fully appears.

(b) Jurisdiction of this cause is based upon Section 502 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, 29 U.S.C. §1132 ("ERISA"), as hereinafter more fully appears.

2. (a) The Plaintiffs are the TRUSTEES OF THE N.E.C.A. - IBEW LOCAL 176 HEALTH, WELFARE, PENSION, VACATION, AND TRAINING TRUST FUNDS.

(b) The Pension Fund, Welfare Fund, and Vacation Fund (together called "the Funds") have been established pursuant to collective bargaining agreements heretofore entered into between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 176 (the "Union") and certain

employer associations whose members employ members of the Union, and the Funds are maintained and administered in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, and other applicable state and federal laws. The Funds are administered by the Plaintiffs as the presently acting trustees thereof, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, as amended, and other applicable state and federal laws and the terms and provisions of the Agreements and Declarations of Trust which established the Funds.

3. (a) Defendant MCDANIEL is an Illinois Corporation and resides within this jurisdictional district.
- (b) Defendant MCDANIEL is an employer engaged in an industry affecting commerce.
- (c) Defendant MCDANIEL has its principal place of business located at 1055 W. JOLIET ROAD, VALPARAISO, IN 46385.

4. Since on or about September 14, 2000, Defendant MCDANIEL has authorized DuPage County Division, Illinois Chapter N.E.C.A., Inc. (hereafter "NECA") as its collective bargaining representative for all matters contained in or pertaining to the collective bargaining agreement then in force, and thereafter, between NECA and the Union.

5. Since before 1972, NECA, a multi-employer bargaining association authorized to negotiate and execute collective bargaining agreements on behalf of its members and authorizing employers, has entered into successive collective bargaining agreements with the Union on behalf of its members, including Defendant MCDANIEL.

6. By virtue of certain provisions contained in the collective bargaining agreements, Article VI, Section 5 of Amendment No. 1 of the Pension Fund Declarations of Trust, Article VI,

Section 5 of the Welfare Fund Declarations of Trust and Article VII, Section 5 of the Vacation Fund Declarations of Trust to which Defendant MCDANIEL is bound, Defendant MCDANIEL has agreed to make fringe benefit contributions on behalf of certain of its employees, calculated in relation to the gross wages of said employees, and when given reasonable notice by the Trustees of said Funds or the Trustees' representatives, has agreed to submit its books and records to an independent auditor to determine whether or not said Defendant is in compliance with its duties under ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(A), the various collective bargaining agreements and the declarations of trust to which Defendant has assented.

7. In the event a delinquency is shown to be due and owing, Defendant has agreed to be liable for all costs, ten percent delinquency penalty and reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to Article VI, Section 4 of Amendment No. 1 of the Pension Fund Declarations of Trust, Article VI, Section 7 of the Welfare Fund Declarations of Trust and Article VII, Section 7 of the Vacation Fund Declarations of Trust.

8. Independent of said Declarations of Trust to which Defendant has assented, Defendant is liable for costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(E), a twenty percent penalty in liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(C)(ii), attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(D), and prejudgment interest pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(B).

9. Since after September 14, 2000 Defendant, MCDANIEL has admitted, acknowledged and ratified the collective bargaining agreements entered into between NECA and the Union by the filing of periodic report forms with the Funds and by its making some but not all of the periodic payments to the Funds as required by such agreements.

10. Plaintiffs are advised and believe that since on or about January 1, 2006 Defendant MCDANIEL has failed to make some of the contributions from time to time required to be paid by

it to the Funds pursuant to the terms of the collective bargaining agreements by which it was bound, all in violation of its contractual obligations and its obligations under the applicable state and federal statutes.

11. Plaintiffs require an audit to be performed on Defendant MCDANIEL's complete books and records in order to ascertain the exact amount due and owing, but are aware of a delinquency of \$52,333.31 consisting of \$45,550.60 for delinquent contributions, \$34,555.06 for 10% liquidated damages (late charges), \$2,227.65 for audit costs and \$42.64 due for discrepancies monthly employee reports.

12. By virtue of the foregoing, Plaintiffs and Defendant's employees on whose behalf Plaintiffs are acting as fiduciaries have been damaged in amount of \$52,333.31 plus the amount shown due under the audit.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray:

A. MCDANIEL be ordered to produce its books and records for audit for the period from October 1, 2009 though the present;

B. Judgment be entered for Plaintiffs and against Defendant MCDANIEL in the amount of \$52,333.31 plus the amount shown due under the audit pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(A) and the aforesaid Declarations of Trust;

C. (1) Twenty percent in liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(C)(ii), and the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;

(2) A ten percent penalty pursuant to the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;

(3) Audit costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(E), and the collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;

(4) Attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(D), and the collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented; and

(5) Prejudgment interest pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(B).

D. That pending final determination of this cause, Defendant MCDANIEL be enjoined from violating the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and enjoined from failing to make timely payments to the Funds as set forth; and that upon final adjudication of the cause Defendant MCDANIEL be permanently so enjoined.

E. That the court grant Plaintiffs such other and further relief as it may deem appropriate in the circumstances.

## **COUNT II**

Plaintiffs complain against Defendant BRETT D. BEAN ("BEAN"), personally and individually, as follows:

13. Plaintiffs incorporate paragraph 1-12 of Count I as applicable and reiterate the same as if fully set forth herein.

14. Defendant BEAN is, on information and belief, the owner and operator of Defendant MCDANIEL and is on information and belief either director and/or officer of said Defendant MCDANIEL.

15. Pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of Amendment No. 1 of the Pension Fund Declarations of Trust, Article VI, Section 5 of the Welfare Fund Declarations of Trust and Article VII, Section 5 of the Vacation Fund Declarations of Trust to which Defendant MCDANIEL and thereby Defendant BEAN have assented, Defendant BEAN is personally liable for any unpaid

contributions, costs and reasonable attorneys' fees arising from Plaintiffs' actions to collect said delinquency, to wit,

"Where an audit discloses a difference between hours actually worked by an Employee and hours reported to the Trust by his Employer, and where such audit discloses any willful violation of any of the requirements of this Trust Agreement or rules and regulations adopted in connection herewith, the officers and directors of such Employer, if a corporation, or the owner or partners of such Employer, as applicable, shall be personally liable for any underpayment or other pecuniary loss to the Fund attributable to such conduct."

16. Plaintiffs, on information and belief, submit that Defendant MCDANIEL, and thereby Defendant BEAN have engaged in willful violation of these provisions and is therefore personally liable for any unpaid contributions.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray:

A. BEAN be ordered to produce its books and records for audit for the period from October 1, 2008 though the present;

B. Judgment be entered for Plaintiffs and against Defendant BEAN in the amount of \$52,333.31 plus the amount shown due under the audit pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(A) and the aforesaid Declarations of Trust;

C. (1) Twenty percent in liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(C)(ii), and the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;

(2) A ten percent penalty pursuant to the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;

(3) Audit costs pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(E), and the collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented;

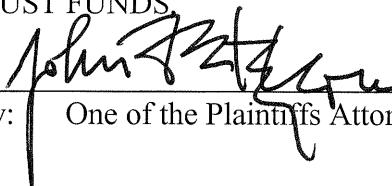
(4) Attorneys' fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(D), and the collective bargaining agreements and trust declarations to which Defendant has assented; and

(5) Prejudgment interest pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1132(g)(2)(B).

D. That pending final determination of this cause, Defendant BEAN be enjoined from violating the aforesaid collective bargaining agreements and enjoined from failing to make timely payments to the Funds as set forth; and that upon final adjudication of the cause Defendant BEAN be permanently so enjoined.

E. That the court grant Plaintiffs such other and further relief as it may deem appropriate in the circumstances.

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IBEW LOCAL 176 HEALTH, WELFARE,  
PENSION, VACATION, AND TRAINING  
TRUST FUNDS

  
By: \_\_\_\_\_ One of the Plaintiffs Attorneys

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